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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chicago, Ill. 60604

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General Information: (312) 353-1880

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Media Contact: Ronald M. Guzicki  
(312) 353-1880

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## **Results of Pay Survey for the Columbus, Ohio Metropolitan Area**

Workers in the Columbus, Ohio metropolitan area averaged \$16.01 per hour during September 1999, according to a new wage study released by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Peter J. Hebein reported that white-collar workers averaged \$18.40 per hour, and accounted for 58 percent of the workers studied. Blue-collar workers, representing 25 percent of all workers, averaged \$13.53 per hour, while the remaining 17 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$10.91 per hour. (See table 1-1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for all occupations in establishments with 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local government. It excludes those in agricultural establishments, private households, Federal Government, and the self-employed. This survey studied 218 firms representing 417,800 workers within the Columbus, Ohio metropolitan area, which includes Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, and Pickaway Counties. Approximately 74 percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Columbus metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for more than 90 detailed occupations. Among white-collar workers, registered nurses earned \$20.90, secretaries averaged \$14.59, and cashiers received \$7.00. Within the blue-collar occupational group, carpenters averaged \$15.67 per hour, truck drivers were paid \$14.84 and stock handlers and baggers earned \$9.48. Service occupations included janitors and cleaners at \$10.00 and cooks at \$8.95. (See table 2-1.)

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics, such as full-/part-time employment, union and nonunion status and establishment size. Overall, wages for full-time workers averaged \$17.03 per hour, compared to \$8.31 per hour for part-timers. Union workers averaged \$17.71 while nonunion employees earned \$15.39. Employees in establishments with 50-99 workers averaged \$12.64, and in establishments with 500 workers or more, average pay was \$18.29 per hour. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job. These selected characteristics allow for comparison of occupations with similar requirements.

Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. The NCS is part of a statistics program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program. The survey increases the amount of wage data available to businesses, employees, and the public, and reduces the time required of business establishments responding to BLS compensation surveys.

### **Survey Availability**

Complete survey results are contained in the National Compensation Survey, Columbus, OH, September 1999, (Bulletin 3100-18). Copies of survey tables are available on the BLS Internet site at: <http://stats.bls.gov/comhome.htm> and from the Bureau's automated fax-on-demand service in Chicago at (312) 353-1880, menu option 1. Using a touch-tone telephone, up to four documents at a time can be ordered and faxed to you within minutes, 24-hours a day.

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Printed copies of this survey are available for purchase for \$6.50 from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Publications Sales Center, P. O. Box 2145, Chicago, IL 60690. Telephone orders using a credit card (MasterCard, Visa or Discover/NOVUS) or GPO Deposit Account may be placed between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM Central Time at (312) 353-1880. The BLS Publication Sales Center stocks National Compensation Surveys for all areas nationwide, as well as other BLS publications.

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